

BUYER'S GUIDE TO BUYING AN ENERGY STAR HOME

1. Find a Qualified Energy Star Builder

- a. The best place to look for a qualified Energy Star Builder Partner in Idaho is the Office of Energy Resources website at:
<http://energy.idaho.gov/idahoenergystar/builderpartners.html>.
- b. The builder should know of home owners you can talk to about their homes.

2. The Framework

- a. Energy Star Northwest is a special Energy Star standard for the Pacific Northwest.
- b. The Office of Energy Resources (OER) is the official State Energy Star Northwest certifying organization in Idaho—OER certifies homes that meet the Energy Star Northwest criteria.
- c. Your builder has signed up as a Builder Partner with OER.
- d. Your builder works with a highly trained Home Performance Specialist who is certified by OER to consult, inspect and test homes for Energy Star qualification.

3. Buying an Energy Star Home

- a. Work with a Realtor who is trained in the benefits of Energy Star homes.
- b. The home should be quiet, with even temperatures throughout.
- c. If previously owned, the energy bills should be very reasonable—ask to see them.

4. Proof of Certification

- a. If the home is certified Energy Star, a certificate has been issued by OER.
- b. Ask to see that certificate. Make sure it is given to you at closing.
- c. If the Seller does not have an Energy Star Certificate for the home, call OER at the number given on this website. OER has access to a database of all certified Energy Star Northwest homes in Idaho and will advise you if the home is certified.
- d. In many cases where the Energy Star Certificate is missing and the home is in OER's database, OER can issue a replacement certificate to your seller.